

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



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### ***Indiana's April unemployment rate drops to 5 percent*** *State's unemployment rate lower than nation; lowest in Midwest*

Indianapolis, Ind. – Indiana's *non-seasonally adjusted* unemployment rate dropped from 5.6 percent (revised) in March to **5 percent in April** (preliminary), according to figures released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For the same time period, **the U.S. average non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.4 percent**, down from March's rate of 6 percent. Indiana continued to outpace its Midwest neighbors, with Illinois reporting 5.9 percent unemployment, Kentucky saw an 5.2 percent rate, Michigan's April rate was 6 percent and Ohio reported in at 5.8 percent unemployment.

Indiana's estimated labor force (non-seasonally adjusted), or the number of people 16 years of age and older who are able and available for work, totaled 3,174,500 (preliminary) in April, up from March's 3,167,000 (revised) figure. An estimated 3,015,600 Hoosiers were employed and 158,900 are unemployed in April 2004.

"April's unemployment figure is encouraging – it's another sign Indiana's economy is on the mend," said Alan Degner, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the state agency that tracks employment trends. "More Hoosiers are working and based on the April jobs numbers released earlier this month that showed Hoosier businesses creating jobs in virtually every sector - there is reason for hope."

Using the same data, and adjusting the numbers for seasonal employment trends, the federal government reported that **Indiana's April seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent (preliminary)**, down from March's 5.3 percent (revised). Meanwhile, the U.S. rate was **5.6 percent in April**, down from 5.7 percent (revised) in March.

Of Indiana's neighboring states Illinois reported 6.1 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, Kentucky reported in at 5.3 percent, Michigan saw 6.1 percent unemployment and Ohio's rate was 5.8 percent.

In calculating unemployment rates, two different types of numbers are provided. The first, known as the *non-seasonally adjusted rate*, estimate employment and unemployment without taking into account the effects of seasonal trends. In calculating the *seasonally adjusted rate*, employment that follows more or less a regular pattern each year, including holiday or summer employment, is factored out of the estimate. These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements.

Unemployment rates for individual counties, cities and metropolitan statistical areas will be available on May 28, 2004.

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Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on Indiana's unemployment rate, contact the Indiana Department of Workforce Development at 1-888-WorkOne, or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

### **INDIANA V.S. U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES: APRIL 2004**

#### ***Not Seasonally Adjusted***

	April 2004	March 2004	April 2003
<b>Indiana</b>			
Labor Force	3,174,500	3,167,000	3,176,700
Employed	3,015,600	2,988,300	3,012,300
Unemployed	158,900	178,700	164,400
Rate	5.0	5.6	5.2
<b>U.S.</b>			
Rate	5.4	6.0	5.8

#### ***Seasonally Adjusted***

	April 2004	March 2004	April 2003
<b>Indiana</b>			
Labor Force	3,178,300	3,195,200	3,180,400
Employed	3,021,400	3,027,100	3,017,700
Unemployed	156,900	168,100	162,700
Rate	4.9	5.3	5.1
<b>U.S.</b>			
Rate	5.6	5.7	6.0

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